

CAPUT DIDI.



—————*Pes et Caput uni*
Reddatur formæ. —————



Cum ego nuper verum et genuinum Didi pedem in Museo Britannico detectum accurate depingi curaverim, gratulor sane mihi quod jam oblata sit occasio reliquias pretiosiores lectoribus meis apponendi; rostrum nempe, cum fronte seu parte capitis ei adhuc adhærente. In hoc singularis istius avis vestigium fauste admodum incidi in Museo Ashmoleano apud Oxonienses; in quo satis notum est contineri quicquid rarum collegerat celeberrimus Tradescantius, qui id omne domino Eliæ Ashmole legavit, a quo postea Academiæ donatum est. In descriptione Didi qui in tabula centesima vicesima et tertia hujus operis cernitur, Willoughbeii testimonio usus sum, qui exuvias avis in Museo Tradescantiano se vidisse affirmaverat. Rostrum igitur de quo loquimur est ipsissimum specimen a Willoughbeio Raioque visum; quod fideliter repræsentavimus, quale hodie conspicitur, id injuriarum passum quas afferre solet annorum spatium majus quam centum et quinquaginta. Notandum porro est pedem quoque Didi, vetustate exesum et mutilatum, in eodem Museo asservari, plene et perfecte congruentem cum illo quem suppeditavit Museum
Britanni-

Britannicum, quemque in hoc Naturæ Vivario non ita pridem descripsimus. Vera igitur istius avis existentia, de qua nonnihil dubitari solitum est, tandem certissime probatur.



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THE HEAD OF THE DODO.



Having some months ago ascertained in the British Museum the leg of a Dodo, and given in a preceding number an exact representation of it, I have now the pleasure of presenting my readers with a still more satisfactory relique of that singular bird, viz. the beak, with the fore-part of the head still adhering to it. This I was so fortunate as to discover very lately in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, in which, as is well known, is contained the collection of the famous John Tradescant, by whom it was bequeathed to Mr. Elias Ashmole, who presented it to the university. In the description of the Dodo at plate 123 of the present work, I have observed that we have the testimony of Willoughby for the existence of the exuviae of the Dodo in the Tradescantian Museum. The beak therefore here figured is that belonging to the specimen seen by Willoughby and Ray. It is most faithfully represented as it now appears, having suffered some injuries from the lapse of more than a century and half. I should not omit to observe that a leg of the Dodo (tho' in an extremely bad state of preservation), exists in the same collection; in size and every other particular agreeing with that belonging to the British Museum. The existence therefore of the Dodo, which has lately been considered as somewhat problematical, is now in the fullest and most satisfactory manner ascertained.